

REMARKS

Attorney for applicants has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action on the present application. Applicants have amended Claims 49-54, 58, and 60-62, and canceled Claims 1-48. Claims 63-75 have been added.

Applicants' attorney is pleased to note that, at page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 54-57 and 61 contain allowable subject matter. By the foregoing amendments, Claim 54 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features recited in its base claim (i.e., Claim 48), while Claim 61 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features recited in its base claim (i.e., Claim 48). In amending Claims 54 and 61, minor changes have been made to the original claim language in order to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of Claim 48. In such circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 54 and 61 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 55-57 and 59 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 54. With respect to Claims 49-53, 58, 60, and 62, they have been amended so as to now depend from amended Claim 54. New Claims 63-75 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 61. In such circumstances, it is believed that all of these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. This rejection to Claim 48 has been obviated by the cancellation herein of Claim 48.

Claims 48-53 and 58-60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuba et al. (WO 02/35554). The Examiner rejected Claims 50 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Matsuba et al. reference in view of Kydd U.S. Patent No. 5,882,722, and rejected Claims 48-51, 53, 58-60, and 62 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodas et al. U.S. patent publication No. 2003/0180451. These rejections have been obviated by the cancellation herein of Claim 48, and the amendment to Claims 49-53, 58, 60, and 62.

Claims 1-48 have been canceled to expedite issuance of a patent. Applicants make no admissions concerning the propriety of the rejections and respectfully disagrees with same. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation or divisional applications to protect the inventions of the canceled claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants' attorney respectfully requests reexamination and allowance of pending Claims 49-62, and examination and allowance of new Claims 63-75. If such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is cordially invited to place a telephone call to applicants' attorney in order that any outstanding issue may be resolved without the issuance of a further Office Action.

A fee in the amount of \$225.00 for a two-month Extension Petition is believed to be due. The Petition authorizes the Examiner to charge this \$225 fee to

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Deposit Account No. 503571. No additional fees are believed to be due as a result of the submittal of this Amendment. If any such fees are due, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 503571.

Respectfully submitted,



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